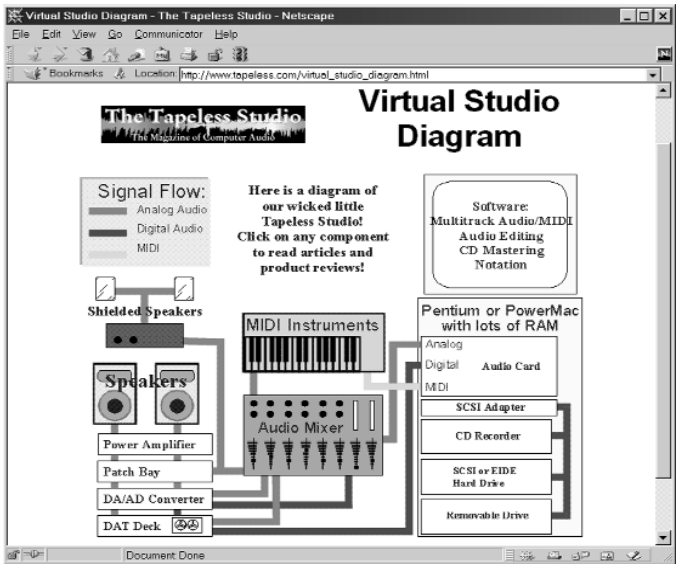
DIY audio CDs

manuals, hardware and software descriptions

As a perfect complement to the articles in this month's Supplement, this Electronics On-Line page is devoted to making your own music CDs. What does the Internet have on this subject?



Naturally, every self-respecting manufacturer of hardware or software has a website where extensive product descriptions may be found. For example, if you need information on soundcards of the Soundblaster type, all you have to do is type *www.soundblaster.com* into the addressbar of web browser and what you were looking for is delivered 'free' to your PC screen.

However, besides a staggering number of product-related websites, there are many other addresses where useful information may be found on the subjects 'computer audio' and 'digital audio recording'.

The Internet magazine ('webzine') called *The Tapeless Studio* (*www.tapeless.com*) is a pretty good starting point. As indicated by its name, the webzine covers anything to do with computerised recording of audio material, including descriptions of new hardware and software for this area, and lots of additional information. Beginners, too, should find this webzine useful because it tells you, among other things, which basic equipment is required.

The Internet being such a vast repository of information, it is not surprising to see that it also supplies good descriptions of the process of copying audio tracks from a CD to a CD-R, or what you have to do if you want to record a whole LP. The address *resource.simplenet.com/primer/primer.htm* is good for an extensive *Primer on CD-R*, of which a large section is devoted to computerised audio-recording. If you want to know everything about making a digital (*last-forever*) copy of your favourite LP on a CD-Rewriteable then a more than useful story may be found at *homepages.nildram.co.uk/~abcomp/lp-cdr.htm*

For an overview of PC soundcards and their main characteristics we'd advise you to have a look at the **Digital Experience** website. Although mainly aimed at working with DAT recorders, the website also offers lots of information on soundcards (*www.digitalexperience.com/cards.html*) and recording software (*www.digitalexperience.com/recsoft.html*)

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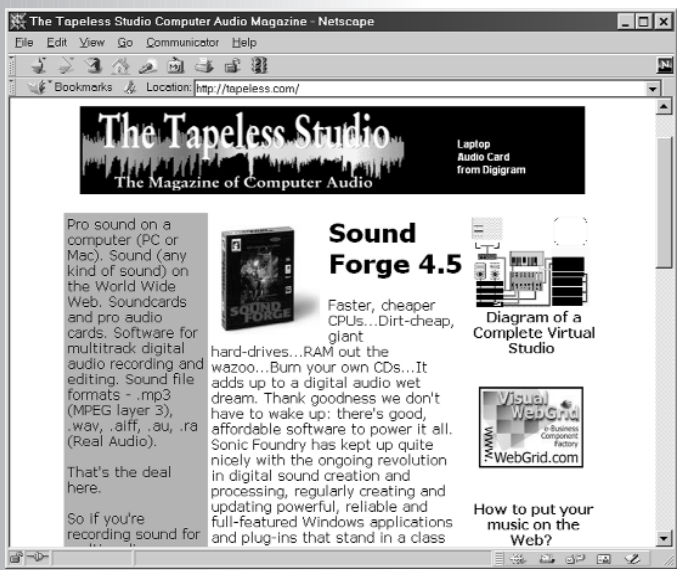
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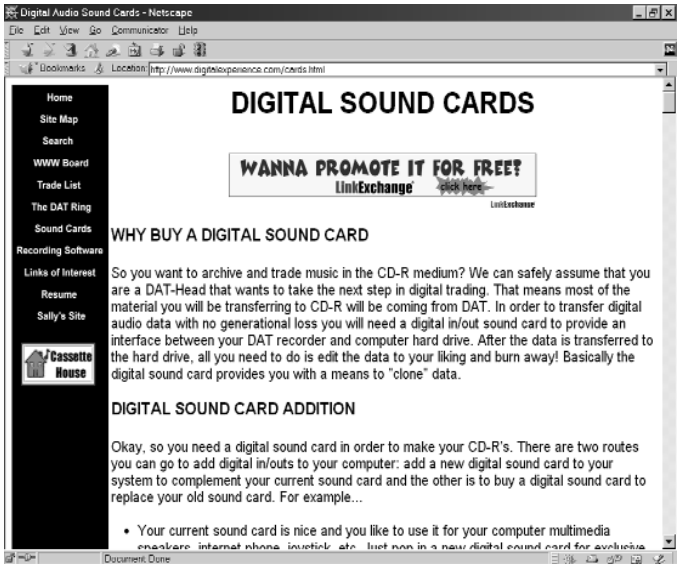
Pro sound on a computer (PC or Mac). Sound (any kind of sound) on the World Wide Web. Soundcards and pro audio cards. Software for multitrack digital audio recording and editing. Sound file formats - .mp3 (MPEG layer 3), .wav, .aiff, .au, .ra (Real Audio).
That's the deal here.
So if you're recording sound for
Sound Forge 4.5
Faster, cheaper CPUs...Dirt-cheap, giant hard-drives...RAM out the wazoo...Burn your own CDs...It adds up to a digital audio wet dream. Thank goodness we don't have to wake up: there's good, affordable software to power it all. Sonic Foundry has kept up quite nicely with the ongoing revolution in digital sound creation and processing, regularly creating and updating powerful, reliable and full-featured Windows applications and plug-ins that stand in a class
Diagram of a Complete Virtual Studio
Visual WebGrid
WebGrid.com
How to put your music on the Web?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WHY BUY A DIGITAL SOUND CARD
So you want to archive and trade music in the CD-R medium? We can safely assume that you are a DAT-Head that wants to take the next step in digital trading. That means most of the material you will be transferring to CD-R will be coming from DAT. In order to transfer digital audio data with no generational loss you will need a digital in/out sound card to provide an interface between your DAT recorder and computer hard drive. After the data is transferred to the hard drive, all you need to do is edit the data to your liking and burn away! Basically the digital sound card provides you with a means to "clone" data.
DIGITAL SOUND CARD ADDITION
Okay, so you need a digital sound card in order to make your CD-R's. There are two routes you can go to add digital in/outs to your computer: add a new digital sound card to your system to complement your current sound card and the other is to buy a digital sound card to replace your old sound card. For example...
• Your current sound card is nice and you like to use it for your computer multimedia
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